

BEFORE
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE COUNTY OF MADERA
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN

In the Matter of	)	Resolution No.: 2025 - 027
	)	
THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER	)	RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
MANAGEMENT ACT	)	CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN 2025 REVISED
	)	GSP
Chowchilla Subbasin	)	
	)	
	)	

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, Water Code sections 10720-10737.8 ("SGMA") was signed into law on September 16, 2014;

WHEREAS, SGMA requires that each groundwater basin be managed by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA"), or multiple GSAs, and that such management be pursuant to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"), or multiple GSPs;

WHEREAS, on January 24, 2017, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Madera ("Board") elected to have the County of Madera become the exclusive GSA for the portions of the Chowchilla Subbasin that are in unincorporated areas of Madera County, and not otherwise covered by another public agency;

WHEREAS, on or about May 13, 2017, the County of Madera became the exclusive GSA for portions of the Chowchilla Subbasin not otherwise covered by another public agency ("Madera County Chowchilla GSA");

WHEREAS, pursuant to Water Code section 10727, SGMA requires that a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP"), or multiple GSPs, be developed and implemented by January 31, 2020 for each high-priority basin;

WHEREAS, the Madera County Chowchilla GSA, the Chowchilla Water District GSA, the Triangle T Water District GSA, and the Merced County Chowchilla GSA (collectively hereinafter the “Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs”) collaboratively prepared a single GSP for the Chowchilla Subbasin in accordance with Water Code section 10727.2 to include all the components required by SGMA;

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2019, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs adopted a single GSP for the Chowchilla Subbasin;

WHEREAS, on or about January 29, 2020, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP was submitted to the Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) for review, public comment, and approval;

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2021, DWR sent a letter to the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP Plan Manager indicating that DWR staff had substantially completed the initial review of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP, and that there were potential deficiencies that might preclude DWR from approving the GSP;

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2022, DWR sent a letter to the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP Plan Manager stating that the GSP was determined to be incomplete because the GSP has not defined sustainable management criteria in the manner required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations related to subsidence, and the Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs did not sufficiently demonstrate that interconnected surface water or undesirable results related to depletions of interconnected surface water are not present and are not likely to occur in the Chowchilla Subbasin;

WHEREAS, in the January 28, 2022, letter, DWR represented that the deficiencies identified in the letter were not addressed by July 27, 2022, DWR, after consultation with

the State Water Resources Control Board (“SWRCB”), would determine the GSP to be inadequate, possibly triggering the state intervention process outlined in SGMA;

WHEREAS, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP was amended to address the deficiencies outlined in the January 28, 2022 letter from DWR;

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2022, the Madera County Chowchilla GSA adopted the first amended Chowchilla Subbasin GSP, and the other Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs did the same;

WHEREAS, on or about July 27, 2022, the first amended Chowchilla Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR for review, public comment, and approval;

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2023, DWR completed a review of the revised Chowchilla Subbasin GSP submitted July 27, 2022, and released an inadequate determination of the first amended Chowchilla Subbasin GSP;

WHEREAS, to address DWR’s determination of inadequacy, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs elected to follow the methodology used in the Merced Subbasin with respect to chronic lowering of groundwater levels and land subsidence, bringing consistency with an adequate GSP in a neighboring subbasin experiencing conditions similar to the Chowchilla Subbasin;

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2023, the second amended Groundwater Sustainability Plan was adopted by Resolution No. 2023-088;

WHEREAS, the Chowchilla Subbasin GSAs have completed additional revisions to the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP in response to the inadequate determination made by DWR, and have created the Chowchilla Subbasin 2025 Revised GSP;

WHEREAS, the Madera County Chowchilla GSA published a notice that a public hearing would be held on March 11, 2025, at 1:30 pm., for the purpose of considering adoption of the Chowchilla Subbasin 2025 Revised GSP;

WHEREAS, upon adoption of a GSP, Water Code section 10733.4 requires that the GSP be submitted to DWR for review; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Water Code section 10728.6, as well as CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 (action of a regulatory agency to protect natural resources), 15308 (action of a regulatory agency to protect the environment), and 15061(b)(3) (the "common sense" exemption where a project is exempt if it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madera, State of California, sitting as Board of Directors for the Madera County Chowchilla GSA, as follows:

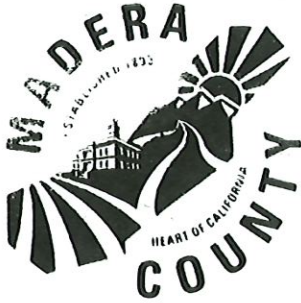
1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated by reference and are made a substantive part of this Resolution.
2. The Chowchilla Subbasin 2025 Revised GSP in the form presented at the Hearing is hereby approved and adopted.
3. The Director of the County Department of Water and Natural Resources is hereby authorized and directed to timely provide notification of this approval and adoption to DWR, including a copy of this Resolution, the Chowchilla Subbasin 2025 Revised GSP, and any additional information required by law.

//

//

* * * * *

The foregoing Resolution was adopted this 1/7th day of MARCH, 2025, by the following vote:



Director Wamhoff voted:	<u>yes</u>
Director Rogers voted:	<u>yes</u>
Director Poythress voted:	<u>absent</u>
Director Gonzalez voted:	<u>absent</u>
Director Macaulay voted:	<u>yes</u>



Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Clerk, Board of Directors

Approved as to Legal Form:

COUNTY COUNSEL

Laurie

Avedisian-

By: Favini

Digitally signed by: Laurie
Avedisian-Favini
DN: CN = Laurie Avedisian-Favini
email = lfavini@lozanosmith.com
C = US O = Lozano Smith
Date: 2025.02.13 14:54:34 -08'00'